

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7235

INFO AMCONSUL UDORN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BANGKOK 1570

FOR D/HA/ORM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: EXTENDED INDOCHINESE REFUGEE PROGRAM: PAROLE CRITERIA

REF: A. STATE 015424 B. BANGKOK 1205 C. BANGKOK 0939

D. STATE 011375

1. WE APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S PROJECTIONS IN REFTEL A OF PAROLE NUMBERS THAT ARE LIKELY TO BE AVAILABLE FOR REFUGEES IN THAILAND. THE TOTAL ESTIMATE OF 11,349 IS ONE BASED ON FORMER CRITERIA, I.E., THOSE APPLYING UNTIL OCTOBER 31. THE MORE RESTRICTIVE CRITERIA NOW BEING CONSIDERED SHOULD REDUCE THIS NUMBER SOMEWHAT. HOWEVER, IT IS ONLY REALISTIC TO ASSUME THAT MUCH OF THIS SLACK WILL BE TAKEN UP BY NEW ARRIVALS WHO MAY BE ELIGIBLE UNDER EVEN THE MORE STRINGENT CRITERIA.

2. WE DO NOT BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT AS SUGGESTED IN PARA 2 OF REFTEL A WE OUGHT TO DEFINE THE CRITERIA EVEN MORE RESTRICTIVELY THAN PRESENTLY CONTEMPLATED. INSTEAD, WE WILL SCREEN REFUGEES AND PRIORITIZE EACH CASE ACCORDING TO THE CRITERIA NOW BEING CONTEMPLATED. IF NUMBERS OF ELIGIBLE REFUGEES OUTSTRIP OUR PAROLE ALLOCATION, THOSE AT THE BOTTOM END OF THE CRITERIA

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WILL NOT BE PAROLED INTO THE US. WE WOULD HOPE TO BE ABLE

TO DO THIS CONSISTENTLY SO THAT AT THE END OF THE EXTENDED PAROLE PROGRAM THE REFUGEE FLOW HAS BEEN CUT OFF ON A RATIONAL AND EQUITABLE BASIS AND AT THE SAME LEVEL FOR ALL NATIONALITY GROUPS.

3. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF SPECIFIC QUESTIONS POSED IN REFTEL A IN PARA 3. PARAGRAPHS BELOW ARE KEYED BY LETTER TO THESE QUESTIONS:

A. CATEGORY I TYPE RELATIVES OF REFUGEES ON INDEFINITE DEPARTURE STATUS - THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 100 TO 200 REFUGEES IN THAILAND WHO ARE RELATIVES OF REFUGEES ON INDEFINITE DEPARTURE STATUS. THESE NUMBERS HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THE CATEGORY I (IMMEDIATE RELATIVE) TOTAL CITED PARA 7 REFTEL B.

B. PROPOSED LIMITATIONS ON CATEGORY II - WE HAVE NO STRONG OBJECTIONS TO RESTRICTING CATEGORY II TO SUBSTANTIVE USG EMPLOYEES PROVIDED THAT THIS DEFINITION ENCOMPASSES ALL WHITE COLLAR WORKERS TO INCLUDE SECRETARIES, FIELD WORKERS, ETC. BLUE COLLAR WORKERS, SUCH AS, JANITORS, DRIVERS, GARDENERS, AND GUARDS WOULD THEN BE DROPPED FROM CATEGORY II. WE DO BELIEVE THAT THOSE DROPPED FROM CATEGORY II SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AT THE TAIL-END OF THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH THE US UNDER EMBASSY'S PROPOSED CATEGORY III CRITERIA (REFTEL C). NOTE THAT THE ONLY REAL PRESSURE ON CATEGORY II IS ON THE LAO SIDE. OUR ASSESSMENT OF CATEGORY II LAO IS THAT 75 PERCENT MEET THE WHITE COLLAR CRITERIA SO WE WOULD ONLY BE DROPPING 25 PERCENT. THUS RESTRICTING CATEGORY II MAY BE MORE WORK THAN IT IS WORTH.

C. CATEGORY I AND ACCOMPANYING RELATIVES- WE ARE IN AGREEMENT WITH DEPARTMENT THAT SAME TYPE RELATIVES SHOULD BE INCLUDED FOR ACCOMPANYING RELATIVES AND THOSE ELIGIBLE UNDER CATEGORY I.

D. (1) IMMEDIATE RELATIVES, FORMER USG EMPLOYEES AND OTHERS IN CHARTS PARA 7 REFTEL B CONFORM TO PRE-OCTOBER 31 CATEGORY I, II AND III DEFINITIONS AND INCLUDE BOTH PRINCIPAL APPLICANT AND ACCOMPANYING RELATIVES IN EACH COLUMN. IT IS NOT REALISTIC FOR US TO COME UP WITH A NEW HEAD COUNT BASED ON MORE RESTRICTIVE CRITERIA PRIOR TO COMPLETION
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OF A COMPREHENSIVE RESCREENING OF ALL REFUGEES. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THIS RESCREENING PROCESS WILL BE COMPLETED WITHIN THE NEXT SIX TO EIGHT WEEKS AS A PRELIMINARY TO INS FINAL SCREENING.

(2) THAI DAM NUMBERS - VIETNAMESE TOTAL REPRESENTED PARA 7 REFTEL B DOES INCLUDE 2100 THAI DAM. GREATEST PART ARE MORE DISTANT RELATIVES WHO WILL HAVE LOW PRIORITY UNDER

MORE RESTRICTIVE CRITERIA. AS ADVISED PARA D(2) REFTEL A, EMBASSY WILL APPLY SAME STRINGENT REQUIREMENTS TO SELECTION OF THAI DAM FOR PAROLE AS BEING APPLIED TO THE MEO. FRENCH DO NOT APPEAR TO BE GIVING MORE SPECIALIZED ATTENTION TO THAI DAM REFUGEES THAN TO ANY OTHER ETHNIC GROUP. FRENCH HAVE TAKE 150-200 THAI DAM. THE FRENCH ARE INTERESTED IN FAIRLY HIGH CALIBRE REFUGEES WHOSE COMMAND OF FRENCH AND KNOWLEDGE OF FRENCH CULTURE WOULD MAKE THEM MOST READILY ASSIMILABLE IN FRENCH SOCIETY. IF SUITABLE CASES OF THAI DAM ARE DISCOVERED FROM FRENCH CONSIDERATION, FRENCH EMBASSY CONTACTS HERE WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO EXAMINE THESE CASES. OUR ASSESSMENT IS THAT FEW CASES OF INTEREST TO THE FRENCH REMAIN.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BANGKOK 1570

(3) LAO TOTALS - THE PRESENT LAO CEILING EXCEPT FOR RECOUPED NUMBERS AND THE RESERVE IS FILLED. OF THE 3072 LAO ESTIMATED REFTEL B ONLY 150 WILL BE COMING OUT UNDER THE PRESENT PROGRAM (I.E., THROUGH THE FUTURE URGENT CASE RESERVE). THUS, UNDER AN EXTENDED PROGRAM, ALMOST 3700 LAO ARE PRESENTLY ESTIMATED TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR PAROLE AS MEASURED AGAINST THE OLD CRITERIA. AS NOTE REFTEL B, LAO TOTAL INCLUDES 2000 CAREFULLY SCREENED MEO, MOST OF WHOM SHOULD MEET MORE RESTRICTED CRITERIA.

E. LAO CUT-OFF DATE FOR CATEGORY I RELATIVES - OUR COMMUNICATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT ILLUSTRATE THE COMPLEXITY OF

THIS POINT. ON THE ONE HAND WE SEE THE NEED TO LIMIT INDEFINITE ABILITY OF LAO REFUGEES TO ARRIVE IN THE US AND THEN CONFER CATEGORY I STATUS ON REFUGEES STILL IN THAILAND. ON THE OTHER HAND, TO IMPOSE THE OCTOBER 31 DATE WOULD NOT BE FAIR TO THE LAO CONSIDERING THAT THEY WERE NOT MOVED TO THE US AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS THE VIETNAMESE AND THE CAMBODIANS. FOR EXAMPLE, THERE ARE SOME CASES OF LAO WHO RECEIVED A-NUMBERS IN SEPTEMBER WHO HAVE STILL NOT MOVED TO THE US. PERHAPS A BETTER METHOD OF ESTABLISHING A CUT-OFF WOULD BE TO ESTABLISH A CUT-OFF DATE BASED ON ARRIVAL IN THAILAND. THIS WOULD NOT THEN PENALIZE LAO REFUGEES FOR THE SLOWER PACE OF THE LAO REFUGEE PROGRAM. FROM OUR STAND-CONFIDENTIAL

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POINT, A LOGICAL DATE WOULD BE JANUARY 20. THIS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT OF THE ABDICATION IN DECEMBER AND GIVES POTENTIAL REFUGEE SEVERAL WEEKS IN WHICH HE COULD HAVE COME TO THAILAND. THE LAOS-THAI BORDER WAS CLOSED FOR PART OF THIS PERIOD BUT IT HAS BEEN RELATIVELY OPE SINCE JANUARY 1 WHICH GIVES 3 WEEKS FOR PEOPLE TO HAVE COME ACROSS AND MANY DID. WE SUGGEST VIENTIANE PROVIDE VIEWS ON THIS. THE ONLY DIFFICULTY WITH A JANUARY 20 CUT-OFF IS THAT FOR REFUGEES LIVING OUT OF CAMP ARRIVAL DATE IN THAILAND IS DIFFICULT TO SUBSTANTIATE. OUR UNDERSTANDING OF CATEGORY I CUT-OFF OF THIS NATURE IS THAT ANY LAO ARRIVING AFTER JANUARY 20 IN THAILAND WOULD NOT, AFTER ARRIVAL IN US, HAVE RIGHT TO CONFER CATEGORY I STATUS ON RELATIVES REMAINING IN THAILAND. THUS, THIS IS A CUT-OFF WHICH APPLIES ONLY TO A REFUGEE'S ABILITY TO DRAW OTHER RELATIVES TO THE US AFTER HIS ARRIVAL. THIS WILL NOT PREVENT PAROLE OF ELIGIBLE REFUGEES AND IMMEDIATE RELATIVES WHO ARRIVE IN THAILAND AFTER JANUARY 20 AND QUALIFY UNDER CATEGORIES I, II OR III.

4. NEED FOR GREATER THIRD COUNTRY INVOLVEMENT IN REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT - EMBASSY FULLY CONCURS IN RECOMMENDATION MADE PARA 4 REFTEL A THAT BEST POSSIBLE USE OF THIRD COUNTRY REFUGEE PROGRAMS BE MADE TO SUPPLEMENT US EFFORT. REFUGEE OFFICE IS CURRENTLY DEVELOPING CONTACTS WITH THE EMBASSIES OF FRANCE, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, CANADA AND AUSTRALIA TO PROMOTE FULL COORDINATION OF ALL REFUGEE PROGRAMS OPERATING IN THAILAND. IT IS HOPED THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THIRD COUNTRY EMBASSIES WILL PARTICIPATE, JOINING THE EMBASSY REFUGEE OFFICE IN SCREENING OF CASES WITH A VIEW TOWARD THIRD COUNTRY ACCEPTANCE OF AS MANY REFUGEES AS POSSIBLE. UPDATED STATUS REPORT ON THESE DEVELOPMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED AT A LATER DATE.

5. CRITERIA FOR PAROLE - EMBASSY BELIVES THAT CRITERIA NOW BEING DEVELOPED FOR PAROLE OF REFUGEES IN THE US ARE ADEQUATE FOR OUR SCREENING REQUIREMENTS. IN VIEW OF OUR CURRENT EFFORTS TO PRIORITIZE ALL CATEGORIES OF REFUGEES, WE WILL BE IN A POSITION TO CUT OFF AT THE LEVEL WARRANTED BY

THE NEW NUMBERS BEING MADE AVAILABLE TO US.

6. SUGGEST IN FUTURE THAT CABLES SUCH AS THESE GO INFO UDORN
AND VIENTIANE.

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